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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,570	06/03/2005	Hideki Nabesako	SONYJP 3.3-1033	3574

530 7590 02/18/2009
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EXAMINER

PATEL, CHANDRAHAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2416

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/537,570	Applicant(s) NABESAKO ET AL.	
	Examiner Chandrabhas Patel	Art Unit 2416	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/1/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6 and 7, filed 12/1/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 6 under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kim et al. (USPN 5,859,846).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ro (US-PGPUB 2002/0150123) in view of Kim (USPN 5,859,846).

Regarding claim 1, Ro teaches an encoding/transmitting apparatus [**Fig. 2, 101**] comprising: input means for inputting data [**Fig. 2, 106**]; encoding means for encoding the data input by the input means [**Fig. 2, 206, 212**]; storage means for storing encoded data generated by the encoding means [**Fig. 2, 215**]; multiplexing means for multiplexing the encoded data stored in the storage means and transmitting the multiplexed data to a predetermined receiving apparatus through a network [**Fig. 2, 214**]; in which the encoding means stops an encoding process when an area occupied by data in the storage means is larger than a predetermined value,

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and performs the encoding process when the area occupied by the data in the storage means is smaller than the predetermined value, in which, when the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop command, the encoding means continues the encoding process until the area occupied by data in the storage means is larger than a predetermined value. **[Page 4,**

Paragraph 46-49, system stream is crated by combining different streams and different streams are combined in such way that the buffer overflow is prevented].

However, Ro does not teach monitoring means for monitoring a state of the network, and for generating a stop command and supplying the stop command to the multiplexing means when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop command.

Kim teaches monitoring means for monitoring a state of the network, and for generating a stop command and supplying the stop command to the multiplexing means when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop command **[Col. 13, lines 23-46, stops multiplexing if the output buffer is full indicating that network is congested if the output buffer is full].**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to stop multiplexing if the network is congested so that cell transmission can be dropped from input buffer to output buffer to prevent overflow **[Col. 13, lines 23-46].**

Regarding claim 4, Ro teaches storing and controlling an amount in which the multiplexing means can transmit data **[Page 4, Paragraph 46].**

Regarding claim 5, Ro teaches the data includes a plurality of program data items, the encoding means encodes the program data items, independently of each other, the storage means

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stores the encoded program data items, independently of each other, and the multiplexing means multiplexes the encoded program data items, generating one output data item [Page 4, Paragraph 45-46].

Regarding claim 6, Ro teaches an encoding/transmitting method [Fig. 2, 201] comprising: a step of inputting data [Fig. 2, 106]; a step of encoding the data input in the step of inputting [Fig. 2, 206, 212]; a step of storing, in a storage unit, encoded data generated in the step of encoding the data [Fig. 2, 215]; and a step of multiplexing the encoded data stored in the storage unit by use of a multiplexing unit and transmitting the multiplexed data to a predetermined receiving apparatus through a network [Fig. 2, 214, 220, Page 4, Paragraph 46-47]; a step of monitoring a state of the network, in which the encoding means stops an encoding process when an area occupied by data in the storage means is larger than a predetermined value, and performs the encoding process when the area occupied by the data in the storage means is smaller than the predetermined value, and when the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop command, the encoding means continues the encoding process until the area occupied by data in the storage means is larger than a predetermined value. [Page 4, Paragraph 46-49, system stream is crated by combining different streams and different streams are combined in such way the buffer overflow is prevented].

However, Ro does not teach generating a stop command when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop command.

Kim teaches monitoring means for monitoring a state of the network, and for generating a stop command and supplying the stop command to the multiplexing means when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplexing means stops multiplexing in response to the stop

command [Col. 13, lines 23-46, stops multiplexing if the output buffer is full indicating that network is congested if the output buffer is full].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to stop multiplexing if the network is congested so that cell transmission can be dropped from input buffer to output buffer to prevent overflow [Col. 13, lines 23-46].

Regarding claim 9, Ro teaches the data includes a plurality of program data items, the program data items are encoded, independently of each other, in the step of encoding the data, the encoded program data items are stored in the storage unit, independently of each other, in the step of storing the encoded data, and the program data items are multiplexed in the step of multiplexing the encoded data, thereby generating one output data item [Page 4, Paragraph 45-46].

Regarding claim 10, Ro teaches an encoding/transmitting apparatus [Fig. 2, 101] comprising: an encoding unit to encode received data [Fig. 2, 206, 212]; a storage unit to store encoded data encoded by the encoding unit [Fig. 2, 215]; a multiplex unit to multiplex the encoded data received from the storage unit so as to produce multiplex data and transmit the multiplexed data to a predetermined receiving apparatus through a network [Fig. 2, 214]; in which the encoding unit stops an encoding process when an area occupied by data in the storage unit is larger than a predetermined value, and performs the encoding process when the area occupied by the data in the storage unit is smaller than the predetermined value, when the multiplex unit stops multiplexing in response to the stop command, the encoding unit continues the encoding process until the area occupied by data in the storage unit is larger than a predetermined value [Page 4, Paragraph 46-49, system stream is crated by combining

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different streams and different streams are combined in such way that the buffer overflow is prevented].

However, Ro does not teach a determining unit to monitor a state of the network, and generate a stop command and supply the stop command to the multiplex unit when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplex unit stops multiplexing in response to the stop command.

Kim teaches a determining unit to monitor a state of the network, and generate a stop command and supply the stop command to the multiplex unit when the state of the network is undesirable, and the multiplex unit stops multiplexing in response to the stop command **[Col. 13, lines 23-46, stops multiplexing if the output buffer is full indicating that network is congested if the output buffer is full]**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to stop multiplexing if the network is congested so that cell transmission can be dropped from input buffer to output buffer to prevent overflow **[Col. 13, lines 23-46]**.

4. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ro (US-PGPUB 2002/0150123) and Kim (USPN 5,859,846) in view of Terao et al. (USPN 7,187,844).

Regarding claims 3 and 8, Ro teaches the data includes audio data **[Fig. 2, 208]**.

However, Ro does not teach fading-out of the audio data to be encoded before the encoding means is stopped, and fading-in of the audio data when the encoding means is started again.

Terao teaches fading-out of the audio data to be encoded before the encoding means is stopped, and fading-in of the audio data when the encoding means is started again [**Col. 5, lines 40-44**].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fade-out and fade-in audio data so that audio level can be gradually decreased and increased [**Col. 5, lines 44-47**].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrahas Patel whose telephone number is (571)270-1211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30 to 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ricky Ngo/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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/Chandahas Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416